

REMARKS:


The specification and claims of the referenced application have been amended in accordance with common U.S. Patent Practice.

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled and rewritten as claims 7-18 to eliminate multiple dependencies, remove "characterizing" clauses and define the steps in the active voice. The Abstract has been modified to conform with US practice.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP



James J. Bindseil
Registration Number 42,326

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111 AML/pjc
Facsimile: (703) 518-5499
Date: September 29, 2004